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PEOPLE

Names in the news

Patrick "PJ" Lenihan, 34, is the new corporate vice president of Lawn Medic Inc., Rochester, NY. Lenihan, president of the North Carolina Turfgrass Council, had headed Lawn Medic of the Triad, affiliate subsidiary, the largest lawn care company in North Carolina. Among his first duties as corporate vice president will be overseeing the transfer and restructuring of the company's employee training programs to North Carolina from New York. He is a University of Virginia graduate.

Word comes that Lebanon Chemical, Lebanon, PA, has three new salesmen. They are Andrew Cinque, New York, NY, Greg Senst, Janesville, WI, and James Walsh, Blue Island, IL.

The Ohio Turf Foundation honored Lesco chairman and co-founder Jim FitzGibbon with its "Man of the Year" designation this past December. Lesco is based in Rocky River, OH.

In related news, Jerry Lambert, Lambert Landscapes, Sonoma, CA, earned the award from the regular membership of the California Landscape Contractors Association (CLCA), while Robert Crudup, Jr., nursery manager for Valley Crest Tree, Sunol, was the CLCA "Man of the Year" among associate members for 1984.

In related news, John France, Cal-Turf, is the 1985 president of the associate member organization of the CLCA. Alex Rosa, Cal-Turf, Brea, is the organization's southern representative, Bobbi Coggins, Tree Haven, Sacramento, its northern rep, and Rick LaMantain, Valley Crest Tree, Sunol, the secretary. The associate member category is comprised of individuals and firms who are suppliers of products and services to contractors.

Robert H. Mortensen, of Mortensen Associates of Falls Church, VA, and Toledo, OH, follows Darwina L. Neal as president of the American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA). Other national ASLA officers installed this winter include: John L. Wacker, Weston, MA, president-elect; Cheryl L. Barton, Nashville, TN.

IN-THE-MIDDLE

Toro to import low-cost mowers

Toro Company President Kendrick Melrose has announced an agreement with Fielsa S.A., its distributor in Venezuela and Colombia, to manufacture homeowner lawn mowers Toro dealers can sell in the U.S. for less than $300. The Toro Company, having returned to profitability, wants to capture part of the low-end mower market.

Ransomes switch good for Texas Co.

When Ransomes bought Bobcat from Wisconsin Marine a few years ago, a big problem arose. Distributors, like Goldthwaithe's in Texas, found themselves carrying competing product lines. Ransomes had to locate new distributors.

They found Chemical & Turf Specialty Co., Inc. in Garland, TX, to take over Goldthwaithe's territory. The smile on Chemical & Turf's Sales Manager Gary McElvenay's face and the crowd at his booth during the Texas Turf Conference in December indicates the new relationship is a profitable one.

Chemical & Turf was primarily a chemical distributor until taking on Ransomes. Equipment and chemicals go together well McElvenay said. Now the company carries Turf-Vac,. Myers, and other equipment lines.

DeBra stresses service over price

David DeBra, vice president of DeBra Turf and Industrial Equipment Co., Hollywood, FL, stresses service and parts over price to his customers.

DeBra says a potential buyer is wise to investigate the company's service staff and facilities. "Without trained service professionals, a service contract or guarantee from an equipment firm is not worth much," he points out.

Availability of parts is critical because down time can be disastrously expensive. DeBra says, "If parts are not routinely kept in inventory, it should be known how long the delivery times average. It is also important that a firm can get the right parts and not just make-shift ones."

The final guideline, according to DeBra, is to look for an established firm. "A firm that has been around for a while will have the most to offer," he says. "Its relationship with manufacturers and parts distributors will be better and its staff is usually more experienced."

New Jersey honors Des Champs

Paul Des Champs, president of Storr Tractor, was honored by the New Jersey Turfgrass Foundation as 1984 Man-of-the-Year during the New Jersey Turf Expo held in Atlantic City in December. Des Champs has been a strong supporter of the Foundation for nearly two decades.
Lawn spray law vetoed by mayor

A Lyndhurst, OH, resident said it best while voicing his support of a veto by that city's mayor of a council ordinance regulating lawn care companies, “People are also allergic to dust and dirt. If we have a law for every allergy we'd regulate ourselves out of existence.”

The Lyndhurst ordinance, and one in Wauconda, IL, are being watched closely by experts as local governments and the justice system set precedents regarding pesticide applicators. The Lyndhurst ordinance would have required lawn care companies to register with the city each year and disclose the generic names of chemicals they use. The companies would also have to notify individuals who pay $5 to be on a list when they treat an adjacent property. The council voted 4 to 3 in favor of the law in December. The mayor was silent about the law until he surprised council with a veto in January. The council did not have the votes to override the veto.

The ordinance was directed only at lawn care companies. Chemlawn and other companies called the ordinance discriminatory.

The Wauconda law, which is being challenged by the Pesticide Public Policy Foundation (3PF), requires applicators to post signs for 72 hours after treatment. 3PF contends the city of Wauconda does not have jurisdiction over pesticide applicators since that is covered by state and Federal law. It also questions why such a law does not apply to homeowners who treat their lawns.

USDA wants more say with EPA

The U.S. Department of Agriculture wants to turn back the clock on pesticide legislation to when it had a bigger say in pesticide policy making. USDA has asked for changes in EPA's rule review process to require EPA to consult USDA before decisions are finalized. Current laws only provide USDA with the right to comment on agricultural impact of EPA’s proposed rules.

In the early 70's USDA and the Department of Interior lost authority over pesticide regulation when EPA was created to take over. Now USDA wants some of its old power back.

Arborists block hearing rule

The lobbying ability of the National Arborist Association was successfully tested recently when it convinced Congress to stop development of The Hearing Conservation Amendment. Complying with the amendment would have cost arborists more than $2 million according to NAA Executive Vice President Robert Felix.

Congress said the intent of the amendment is currently satisfied under OSHA's existing charter to protect workers from hearing damage at work.

vice president; and Randall B. Fitzgerald, Denver, CO, vice president.

The ASLA honored author and educator Ian L. McHarg with the 1984 ASLA Medal, the organization's highest award. McHarg is a professor at the University of Pennsylvania. And Raymond L. Freeman, Chevy Chase, MD, picked up the 1984 ASLA President's Medal.

Tom Presney, named outstanding park and recreation student in Wisconsin in 1978, is the new superintendent of parks in the city of Janesville, WI. Presney, 27, served as a park ranger at Grand Teton and Yellowstone and park manager at Blackhawk Lake Park, Dodgeville, WI, after graduating from the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point.

Oregon State University senior Forrest Goodling, Portland, recently received a $500 turf scholarship from TUCO division of the Upjohn Company. Goodling is studying turf management.

And some sad news in the Green Industry.

Prominent golf course architect Ellis Maples died Dec. 7. He was 75. He designed more than 70 golf courses in the Southeast and served as president of the American Society of Golf Course Architects in 1974. He was a life member of the PGA and a member of the GCSAA.

Elmer J. Merz, former executive secretary of the California Association of Nurseriesmen (CAN), died Dec. 5. He was 85. He began as CAN's executive secretary in 1948 and served in that post 21 years. After 10 years as legislative consultant for the CAN he retired in 1979 to celebrate his 80th birthday.
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Rigid frame, four-wheel drive and four-wheel coordinated steering help you get into confined work areas. In fact, the compact Sidekick is less than 8-feet high. Controls are easy to operate, and a unique side-engine location means excellent visibility in all directions.

The 1025sk’s 35-HP-class engine balances power and economy; it's tough enough to work hard long hours, compact enough to haul with a pickup truck.* It’s backed by a one-year or 1,000 hour warranty, and competitive financing is available.

For more information on how the new 1025sk can meet your day-to-day backhoe/loader needs, visit your local Ditch Witch dealer. Or call TOLL-FREE 800-654-6481. The Charles Machine Works, Inc., P.O. Box 66, Perry, Oklahoma 73077-0066.

*Check state and local regulations concerning appropriate towing vehicle size and specifications for your area.
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J. C. Raulston's Living Classroom

by Sandra Ladendorf

It takes more than books and classroom lectures to mold a student into both a skilled plantsperson and practical businessperson in J.C. Raulston's mind. When North Carolina State University was reevaluating all its curricula in the mid-1970's, the professor of horticulture plotted a course for better preparation of graduates.

Today, the arboretum at North Carolina State University serves as a laboratory for most of the university's students in landscape horticulture, parks and recreation, forestry, ornamental horticulture, landscape architecture and the school of design. "Our students need to see tree trunks, flowers and berries—to hold a leaf, twig, or flower," says Dr. J.C. Raulston, professor of horticulture at NCSU. So, during the past six years, Raulston accumulated more than 4000 different species and cultivars in the arboretum for students to plant, prune, study and propagate.

When the department of horticulture at State was going through re-evaluation, a committee recognized that while the university was always strong in the areas of flowers and vegetables, the department was weak in ornamentals. A commitment was made to upgrade the curriculum in ornamentals both by increasing the faculty (it has grown from 3 to 11 since 1975) and by improving resources, including an arboretum.

The university provided Raulston with eight acres of land, part of the existing research farm, and tool support—no

Perennial bed at planting (left) one year later (below). Students do most of the planting and maintenance.
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